

Keep San Marcos Beautiful

March/April 2010 Newsletter



CITY OF SAN MARCOS PARKS AND RECREATION

April 9, 2010

Keep San Marcos Beautiful - Gold Star Affiliate



Texas State G-Force Cleanup
held on January, 18, 2010

Keep San Marcos Beautiful (KSMB) is a new city initiative that began at the end of the hot 2009 summer. KSMB's mission is to educate and engage San Marcos residents and visitors to take responsibility for improving our community and the environment. To put it simply, Keep it San Marvelous! KSMB plans and implements different programs and events that promote beautification which also includes Waste In

Place education provided to the community. KSMB partners and provides assistance to Parks and Recreation who helps plan the River Cleanup bi-annually, sponsor and donate means and time with Bobcat Build, and KSMB also has partnered with the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance. Moreover, KSMB began the Adopt-a-Spot program that allows groups to adopt a park or greenspace to clean and beautify at least four times each year. KSMB coordinates graffiti cleanups with our Parks Crews and contractors. KSMB is now beginning a new project called Trail of Trees and will be a

part of the Earth Day Celebration at Aquarena Center to provide beautification education to the participants. KSMB is a member of Keep Texas Beautiful. Keep Texas Beautiful partners with TCEQ, TXDOT, and other organizations throughout the state to help communities with their beautification efforts. Keep Texas Beautiful just recognized KSMB as one of their Gold Star Affiliates! This is a great honor to receive especially in the first year as an affiliate. KSMB will be recognized this summer at the KTB Annual Conference in Austin. KSMB has only just begun, but we are here to make a difference.



Central Texas Flyfishers Club,
Clean-up at Stoke's Park

San Marcos River Cleanup

San Marcos Parks and Recreation, Keep San Marcos Beautiful and the San Marcos River Foundation held the San Marcos Spring River Cleanup on Saturday, March 6th from 9AM—2PM. The cleanup drew almost 200 volunteers including bank walkers and canoers. The

volunteers collected trash and recyclable materials from the San Marcos River and its creeks and tributaries that run into the river. The volunteers picked up 1500 pounds of trash and 1100 pounds of recyclable or reusable materials. San Marcos Parks Crew, TDS and

Green Guy Recycling were on hand to carry out the trash and recyclables. All participants enjoyed a free breakfast and lunch for their work. Special thanks to Melanie Howard, Julie King and Tom Goynes for coordinating such a wonderful cleanup.

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Keep San Marcos Beautiful

Bobcat Build



Bobcat Build cleanup
at the San Marcos
Nature Center

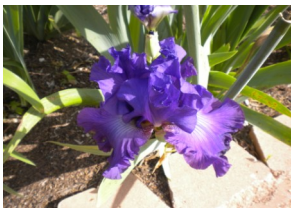
Bobcat Build has become one of San Marcos' most treasured cleanup events. This event is a great opportunity to not only beautify the city, but to promote positive interactions between student residents and non-student residents. This year KSMB was able to give \$1,000 to Bobcat Build to help with supplies and t-shirts. Bobcat Build sent students to ten different city jobsites including City Park, Plaza Park, the Dog Park, Willow Creek, the Nature Center, the Square, Ring-

tail Ridge Greenspace, Buena Vista Street, Stokes Park, and along the street at N. LBJ. 250 students and non-student residents cleaned and beautified about 160 acres of parkland and city property. They also added mulch to all the downtown trees and planters, painted over graffiti, cleaned out the pond at the Nature Center and helped at the Iris Garden. The city and KSMB are grateful for the students as well as the non-student residents who came out on Saturday. Also a

special thanks to the Central Texas Flyfishers Club and San Marcos Baptist Academy for participating at various parks around the city. Other student groups included Honors Student Association, Butler Hall, Sigma Tau Gamma, Hortus Colere, Pre-Pharmacy Society, Bobcat Equality Alliance, Psychology Association, Psi Chi, Pre-Health Learning Community, SoGIS. San Marcos is truly more beautiful today because of everyone's hard work. Thank you!

10 Ways to Go Green and Save Green

WANT TO BECOME A
MEMBER OF KSMB
AND RECEIVE FREE
KSMB MERCHANDISE?
EMAIL HEATHER AT
THE EMAIL ADDRESS
ON PAGE 4 TO
RECEIVE MORE
INFORMATION!



Beautiful iris in the Iris
Garden at the San
Marcos Nature Center

1. Save Energy to Save Money

- Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible. As much as 85 percent of the energy used to machine-wash clothes goes to heating the water.
- Unplug appliances when you're not using them.

2. Save Water to Save Money

- Make sure you have a faucet aerator on each faucet. These inexpensive appliances conserve heat and water, while keeping water pressure high.
- Plant drought-tolerant native plants in your garden. Many plants need minimal watering.

3. Less Gas = More Money & Better Health

- Walk or bike to work. This saves on gas while improving your cardiovascular health and reducing your risk of obesity.
- Lobby your local government to increase spending on side-walks and bike lanes. With little cost, these improvements can pay huge dividends in bettering your health and reducing traffic.

4. Eat Smart

- Buy locally raised, humane, and organic meat, eggs, and dairy whenever you can. Purchasing from local farmers

keeps money in the local economy.

5. Skip the Bottled Water

- Use a water filter to purify tap water instead of buying bottled water. Not only is bottled water expensive, but it generates large amounts of container waste.

- Bring a reusable water bottle, preferably aluminum rather than plastic, with you when traveling or at work.

6. Think Before you Buy

- Go online to find new or gently used secondhand products. Whether you've just moved or are looking to redecorate, consider a service like craigslist to track down furniture, appliances, and other items cheaply or for free.
- Check out garage sales, thrift stores, and consignment shops for clothing and other everyday items.

7. Borrow Instead of Buying

- Borrow from libraries instead of buying personal books and movies. This saves money, not to mention the ink and paper that goes into printing new books.
- Share power tools and other appliances. Get to know your neighbors while cutting down on the number of things cluttering

your closet or garage.

8. Buy Smart

- Wear clothes that don't need to be dry-cleaned. This saves money and cuts down on toxic chemical use.
- Invest in high-quality, long-lasting products. You might pay more now, but you'll be happy when you don't have to replace items as frequently (and this means less waste!).

9. Keep Electronics Out of the Trash

- Recycle them responsibly at the City-Wide E-Waste Day, April 17th from 9AM—2PM.

10. Make Your Own Cleaning Supplies

- The big secret: you can make very effective, non-toxic cleaning products whenever you need them. All you need are a few simple ingredients like baking soda, vinegar, lemon, and soap.
- Making your own cleaning products saves money, time, and packaging-not to mention your indoor air quality.
- The next Household Hazardous Waste Day is Saturday, May 22nd from 8AM—12PM

http://www.worldwatch.org/resources/go_green_save_green

Spring Neighborhood Cleanups

The City of San Marcos Community Services – Environmental Health Division held their first Neighborhood Clean-up of the year on Saturday, March 13th for the neighborhood of Oak Heights. As usual, it was a great success! They filled 4-40 cubic yard dumpsters full of waste, recycled 6,280 pounds of scrap metal, 35 tires, 8 automotive batteries, and 5 cubic yards of chipped brush.

The City employees involved

were Environmental Health Director Mark Brinkley, Nick Alexander, coordinator of the event, Robert Piper, Charles Schlegel, and Keep San Marcos Beautiful Coordinator, Heather Powdrill. This group, with the help of other City Departments, contributed five hours of back breaking work helping the citizens of the Oak Heights Neighborhood unload their trash, recyclables and brush.

These events are a great public service provided by

the City of San Marcos. The Oak Heights Neighborhood Representative, Camille Phillips, was an integral part of making this cleanup a success. Other cooperating partners include Keep San Marcos Beautiful, Texas Disposal Systems, Green Guy Recycling, San Marcos Public Services and Parks and Recreation. The next neighborhood cleanup will be held Saturday, April 10th for the Victory Gardens Neighborhood. For more information, please call Environmental Health at 512.393.8442.



Assistant Director of Community Services, Mark Brinkley and Robert Piper help a resident unload trash and rubbish

Adopt-a-Spot

Keep San Marcos Beautiful has now partnered with nine organizations who have adopted nine parks which totals over 110 acres! The Adopt-a-Spot program is growing and flourishing, and everyone is extremely pleased with the amount of work each volunteer group accomplishes. Throughout the 2010 year, groups have col-

lected 140 pounds of recyclable material and 540 pounds of trash. One April cleanup has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 13th which will include the Bobcat Botany Club who has recently adopted Veramendi Plaza. They will be helping the River Walk Beautification Committee by planting and maintaining the gardens.

Other groups that have joined the Adopt-a-Spot partners during March and April are San Marcos Baptist Academy, SADO (Social Awareness Documentaries Film Club) and the Bobcat Botany Club. KSMB wants to thank all the groups that have helped maintain our beautiful parks. We could not do it without you!

**KEEP IT SAN
MARVELOUS**

Earth Day

Earth Day is fast approaching, and Keep San Marcos Beautiful is getting ready for all the festivities! KSMB has signed up for a booth at the Aquarena River Center's Earth Day Celebration. KSMB will have a few interactive activities for kids, we will be giving away tons of KSMB goodies, and selling T-

shirts and KSMB memberships. The celebration will begin at 1PM and end at 6PM. If anyone would like to volunteer with KSMB, please give Heather a call at 512.393.8420. You do not have to sign up for the entire day, but any help would be appreciated! Also, to kick off the Earth Day week,

KSMB and the City of San Marcos have purchased KSMB Banners to be placed on the utility poles downtown. They will be put up to encourage people to think about their city's beauty before they decide to do otherwise. The banners are absolutely beautiful, and we think each of you will really enjoy the overall message.



Bobcat Build cleanup at the San Marcos Nature Center Butterfly House

Keep it San Marvelous

CITY OF SAN MARCOS PARKS AND RECREATION

Heather Powdrill
Community Beautification Coordinator
630 E. Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Phone: 512.393.8400
Fax: 512.353.7273
E-mail: hpowdrill@sanmarcostx.gov

SMGA Hikes

- April 10: **Kid's Hike** at Prospect Park at 10 AM— National Environmental Education week
- April 24: **Earth Day Hike** at Spring Lake Preserve- more Earth Day events at Aquarena Springs
- May 8: **Boardwalk Hike** at Aquarena Springs with San Marcos River Foundation—American Wetlands Month
- May 15: **Birding Hike** at Schulle Canyon Preserve—International Migratory Bird Day
- June 5: **Photo Hike** at Ringtail Ridge—National Trails Day
(bring your camera and keen eyes)
- June 12: **Kids' Hike** at Nature Center 10 AM—National Get Outdoors Day

Go to RecConnect to register for all the hikes. Remember to wear good shoes and bring sunscreen. Visit www.smgreenbelt.org for hikes in July and August and to obtain directions, start times and additional details.

www.sanmarcostx.gov

Movie in Your Park Eco-Night

San Marcos Parks and Recreation and Time Warner Cable are excited to invite you to participate in the 2nd Annual Movie in Your Park Eco-Night on **Friday, May 7th, 2010 at San Marcos Plaza Park**. Spotlighting the theme of Keep San Marcos Beautiful: "to prevent litter, reduce waste and beautify the City of San Marcos", this year's event, will celebrate the official kick-off of the new Keep San Marcos Beautiful program. KSMB's mission is to educate and engage San Marcos residents and visitors to take responsibility for improving our community environment. The 2009 Movie in Your Park Eco-Night hosted about 750 participants. This year we

are expecting even more with the showing of the new release of Disney's *Up!* We are inviting participants from Texas State University, the San Marcos Community, Hays County, and many environmental groups to join us for this growing event.

This free to the public event includes:

- Educational activities for all ages
- Recycling and green building displays
- Recreation opportunities for kids
- Disney's *Up!* will be shown on our huge outdoor movie screen after the Eco Showcase
- Concessions will be available

Event Schedule

5:30PM – Vendor set up
6:30PM – Eco-Showcase
Sunset – Movie begins (around 8:00PM) and Vendors clean up

If you would like to have a booth, you may provide educational activities, demonstrations, promotional products, prize drawings, or anything of relevance to KSMB's mission. We will provide one six foot table and two chairs per booth. If you have any questions or need a larger space, please let me know. To sign up, please send me an email to Heather Powdrill at hpowdrill@sanmarcostx.gov with a description of your booth and your needs.



**Bobcat Build
cleanup participants**